

Message Text

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ACTION SY-05

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TO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
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FOR RSO

E.O. 11652: N/A
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SUBJ: MONTHLY REPORT OF THREAT ASSESSMENT

REF: (A) 77 NAIROBI 12026 NOTAL; (B) 77 LUSAKA 2994 NOTAL

1. THIS IS EMBASSY'S FIRST UPDATE OF THREAT ASSESSMENT REPORT
SUBMITTED REF B. COMMENTS ON GENERAL FACTORS AFFECTING SECURITY
OF THE POST AND ITS PERSONNEL AS CONTAINED IN THAT MESSAGE ARE
STILL VALID. OVER THE PAST SEVERAL MONTHS, HOWEVER, THERE HAS
BEEN AN ALARMING INCREASE IN INCIDENTS OF BURGLARY, ARMED ROB-
BERY, ASSAULTS, RAPE AND OTHER CRIMINAL ACTS WHICH HAVE
DEFINITELY AFFECTED THE MORALE AND SENSE OF PERSONAL SECURITY
OF PERSONNEL. WHILE FEW OF THESE ACTS HAVE BEEN DIRECTED
SPECIFICALLY AGAINST POST PERSONNEL, THE DETERIORATING SECURITY
SITUATION HAS GIVEN CAUSE FOR REAL CONCERN. THE FOLLOWING
PARAGRAPHS SUMMARIZE SOME INCIDENTS WHICH HAVE TAKEN PLACE
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OVER THE PAST SEVERAL MONTHS. THE LISTS ARE NOT COMPREHENSIVE
BUT ARE MEANT TO BE ILLUSTRATIVE OF WHAT HAS BEEN HAPPENING.
THIS REPORT ALSO DOES NOT ADDRESS THE INCREASING NUMBER OF
CRIMINAL ACTS INVOLVING THE FOREIGN COMMUNITY IN GENERAL.

2. INCIDENTS INVOLVING MISSION PERSONNEL: IN EARLY JUNE THE
CAR OF ONE OF OUR SECRETARIES WAS BROKEN INTO AND STOLEN*

TWO DAYS LATER A RENTAL CAR BEING USED BY TDY PERSONNEL WAS ALSO BROKEN INTO AND STOLEN. IN MAY, THE CAR OF A GUEST WAS STOLEN IN FRONT OF AN EMBASSY HOUSE. ALSO IN MAY, THE CAR OF AN EMBASSY OFFICER WAS BROKEN INTO AND SEVERAL ITEMS WERE STOLEN. IN APRIL THE CAR OF A COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER WAS BROKEN INTO AT MID-DAY IN DOWNTOWN LUSAKA, BUT THIEVES FLED WHEN ALARM WAS ACTIVATED. IN MID-JUNE, A GUARD AT THE RESIDENCE NEXT TO AN EMBASSY COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER WAS SHOT AND KILLED DURING AN ATTEMPTED ARMED ROBBERY; THIS WAS THE SECOND SHOOTING INCIDENT IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD IN TEN DAYS' TIME. THERE HAVE ALSO BEEN TWO SHOOTING INCIDENTS IN THE VICINITY OF THE RESIDENCES OF TWO OTHER EMBASSY OFFICERS. IN APRIL, THREE THIEVES ATTEMPTED TO BREAK INTO THE CONSULAR OFFICER'S RESIDENCE, BUT WERE STOPPED BY GUARDS. IN MAY THE WIFE AND DAUGHTER OF A COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER WERE ON HORSEBACK CROSSING A FIELD NEAR THE RESIDENTIAL AREA OF LUSAKA WHEN THEY WERE HALTED BY AN ARMED, UN-UNIFORMED INDIVIDUAL. THEY WERE FORCED TO DISMOUNT AT GUNPOINT, QUESTIONED AS TO WHAT THEY WERE DOING, AND WERE TOLD TO GET OUT OF THE AREA.

3. INCIDENTS INVOLVING NON-OFFICIAL AMERICANS: AMERICANS CONNECTED WITH THE BAPTIST MISSION HAVE REPORTED SEVERAL ATTEMPTED BURGLARIES IN THE PAST MONTH. IN APRIL EIGHT ARMED MEN BROKE INTO A MISSIONARY HOME, ASSAULTED THE HUSBAND, AND THREATENED THE WIFE WITH RAPE. ALSO IN APRIL, THIEVES BROKE INTO THE HOME OF AN AMERICAN BOEING EMPLOYEE AND ATTACKED HIM

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WITH KNIVES. AMERICANS RECENTLY REPORTED AN INCIDENT IN WHICH THIEVES WITH AUTOMATIC WEAPONS VERBALLY CHALLENGED ZAMBIAN POLICE BEFORE SAUNTERING OFF.

4. INCIDENTS INVOLVING ZAMBIAN MILITARY OR MEMBERS OF LIBERATION MOVEMENTS: THERE HAVE BEEN A NUMBER OF INCIDENTS IN WHICH EUROPEANS HAVE BEEN ASSAULTED AND THREATENED BY LOCAL LIBERATION MOVEMENT OR ZAMBIAN MILITARY PERSONNEL. THOUGH NO ONE HAS BEEN SERIOUSLY INJURED YET, THE INCREASING FREQUENCY OF THESE INCIDENTS, IN ADDITION TO THE INCREASING NUMBER OF ARMED, BORED GUERRILLAS IN THE AREA, SUGGESTS THAT A SERIOUS INCIDENT COULD OCCUR AT ANY TIME. THE MOST RECENT INCIDENT TOOK PLACE NEAR KABWE AT WONDER GORGE, A SCENIC ATTRACTION AND OFFICIAL ZAMBIAN NATIONAL MONUMENT. TWO DUTCH TOURISTS HAD THEIR CAR STOPPED BY ABOUT A DOZEN ARMED GUERRILLAS. THE TOURISTS WERE DRAGGED FROM THE CAR, THREATENED WITH DEATH, FORCED TO STRIP COMPLETELY, AND HAD GUN BARRELS STUCK IN THEIR MOUTHS BEFORE BEING RELEASED. THE PREVIOUS WEEK A CANADIAN WAS STOPPED IN THE SAME GENERAL AREA, WAS TIED TO A TREE AND INTERROGATED FOR THREE HOURS BY CAPTORS WHO THREATENED TO KILL HIM. IN EARLY JUNE THE WIVES (ONE OF WHOM IS AN AMERICAN CITIZEN) OF WEST GERMAN EMBASSY OFFICIALS WERE INTERROGATED AND THREATENED WITH DEATH BY

GUERRILLAS. THE TWO WOMEN HAD STOPPED THEIR CAR ON A DIRT ROAD EN ROUTE TO A FARM JUST OUTSIDE LUSAKA. IN LATE MAY A CANADIAN FAMILY WERE STOPPED NEAR A ZAMBIAN ARMY CAMP, TIED UP, BLINDFOLED, AND THREATENED WITH DEATH. THE MAN WAS BEATEN BEFORE THE FAMILY WAS FINALLY RELEASED. AT LEAST FOUR SIMILAR INCIDENTS HAVE TAKEN PLACE DURING THE PAST SEVERAL MONTHS.

5. COMMENT: EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT DUE TO THE GENERALLY DETERIORATING SECURITY SITUATION IN ZAMBIA, THERE HAS BEEN A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN THE POTENTIAL THREAT TO MISSION PERSONNEL AND THEIR FAMILIES. ALL AMERICAN PERSONNEL WERE BRIEFED THOROUGHLY ON THE SITUATION JUNE 26, AND WERE ADVISED AS TO WHAT MEASURES THEY AND THE POST COULD TAKE IN ORDER TO IMPROVE PERSONAL SECURITY AND MINIMIZE THE THREAT.
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